



**Hear ye, hear ye!** As members and friends of Stone Creed Grove, we endeavor to bring you the latest news, updates, articles, and a calendar of what is going on with the Grove. If you really don't want them, let us know, and if you know someone who is interested, let us know that too. If you have news, articles, poetry, or other artistic work that you would like to be included, please send them to the SCG Scribe at [scribe@stonecreed.org](mailto:scribe@stonecreed.org).

## Stone Facts

The Stone Creed Grove Quarterly  
Newsletter

As always, our gatherings are open to all Pagans of good will, as well as sympathizers and respectful friends. Come and join us as we keep the Old Ways in our days!

### ***From the Senior Druid***

To the Folk of Stone Creed Grove,

Thank you everyone for your continued support of Stone Creed Grove year after year. I would like to thank the Elders and Grove organizers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to make sure that our rituals and events happen. Your dedication to the Druid path help makes Stone Creed Grove a place for the Pagan Community to feel safe and comfortable with their way of worship. I would also like to send out a special thank you to Lindy of Aradia's Garden, for giving us a home for our monthly Blessing Rites for the past couple of years. We were greatly saddened by the closing of your shop and wish you many blessings in your future endeavors. Another special thank you to Matt Stewart of Spirit Apothecary for giving us a temporary home for our Blessing rites while the Grove takes the time to figure out and plan our future. May the continued blessings and love from the Kindred Spirits be upon us all.

Sincerely,

*Darius, Stone Creed Grove Senior Druid*

### ***Introducing the Hearth Culture – The Hellenes***

One way to deepen your experience of ritual and learn more about why Stone Creed rituals take the steps that they do is to study the cultures that surrounded the deities being honored. This is the first article in a series intended to provide some basic information about the culture, the deities, and religious practices of various Indo-European peoples. Since our next rite is honoring Hellenic deities, we will start with them.

**Where did they live?** Hellenic culture was centered in Greece, but had important colonies over a wide range of the Mediterranean. Sicily, southern Italy, Turkey, Cyprus, Crimea, and parts of France and Spain had Hellenic cities and towns. After Alexander the Great, Hellenic political influence extended into Egypt and the Middle East.

**When did they stop practicing paganism?** Officially, in 306 CE, when the Rome converted to Christianity.

**Who did they worship?** The most important gods were the Olympians: Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Apollo, Artemis, Aphrodite, Ares, Dionysos, Hephaistos, Athena, Demeter, Hestia, and Hera. There were numerous other deities, mostly descendants of the Olympians, and also worship of heroic ancestors such as Herakles and Theseus.

**What writings describe their mythology?** Important sources are Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Hesiod's *Theogony*, Apollodorus of Rhodes's *Argonautica*, and the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripedes, and Aristophanes.

**What elements of their religion are used by Stone Creed Grove?** Common elements of Hellenic worship used in Stone Creed's rituals include: Procession into the ritual space, burning sacrifices in the sacred hearth fire, the burning of incense, and purification by fire and water.

**What changes for rites honoring deities of the hearth culture?** In Hellenic rites, the center of the ritual space is a stone known as the *omphalos* rather than a tree, and the sacred fire is lit as part of the ritual rather than beforehand.

## ***Upcoming Rite: Dionysia***

**Sunday, March 22, River Grove, North Chagrin Reservation**

As the sun returns, the folk gather to prepare for the planting season, that our coming year will be fruitful! The Dionysia was a time when the Hellenic peoples would come together to celebrate the first fruits of the vine with drink and joyous entertainment, and we as a grove restore that tradition with the honoring of Dionysos, patron of wine and agriculture and comedy, and Persephone Kore, the returning pure maiden of spring.

Folk of the grove have the opportunity to prepare colored hard-boiled eggs to be blessed in the rite, and may also bring seeds for a pre-planting blessing. After the rite, we will share in our customary pot-luck feast.



## ***Upcoming Rite: Beltaine***

**Sunday, May 3, Tredara Retreat Center, Madison**

In the beginning of May, the veil between our world and the Otherworld grows thin, and we gather to celebrate the newly fertile land! The Feast of Beltaine is our opportunity to honor Aine Glas, the Green Earth who brings renewed life, and Aengus Og, the Harper whose music awakens longing and fulfillment. We also pay special attention to the Sidhe-folk of the land, and the erotic urges that come with the season.

After the rite, we take the opportunity to dance around the Maypole, a symbol of the fertility of the season. We will also have our usual pot-luck feast following the rite.



# ***The Wellspring Gathering 2015***

**Thursday, 5/21 - Monday 5/25**

Brushwood Folklore Center, Sherman NY

A Pagan festival and retreat. Vacation at America's oldest Druid Gathering!

Host of the ADF Annual Meeting;

Competitions for Warriors, Brewers, Artisans, and Bards

Special Performance by the Crystal Ball Band

Meetings of ADF Interest Groups, Kins, and Guilds

# **Stone Creed Grove A.D.F.**

# ***Schedule of Events, 2015***

## **March**

- **Monthly Blessing Rite 3/6** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, 664 Broadway Avenue, Bedford
- **Monthly Business Meeting 3/20** 8:00 PM Gooch residence
- **Dionysia Celebration 3/22** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4:30 PM. River Grove, North Chagrin Reservation

## **April**

- **Monthly Blessing Rite 4/3** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, 664 Broadway Avenue, Bedford
- **Monthly Business Meeting 4/17** 8:00 PM Tredara Retreat Center, Madison
- **Work Weekend 4/18-9** Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

## **May**

- **Monthly Blessing Rite 5/1** 8:30 PM
- **Beltaine Celebration 5/3** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4 PM. **Tredara Retreat Center, Madison**
- **Monthly Business Meeting 5/15** 8:00 PM Gooch residence
- **Wellspring Gathering 5/21-5** Brushwood Folklore Center, Sherman, NY
- **Fifth Friday 5/29** Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

## **June**

- **Monthly Business Meeting 6/19** 8:00 PM Tredara Retreat Center, Madison
- **Midsummer Celebration 6/21** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4 PM. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

## **July**

- **Lughnassadh Festival and Ritual 7/31-8/2** Annual Warrior Games Saturday and Sunday, ritual at 4 PM Sunday. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

## **August**

- **Lughnassadh Ritual 8/2** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4 PM. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison
- **Cleveland Pagan Pride Day 8/22-3** Grove booth open 11 AM to 6:30 PM. SCG rituals both days. Bedford

SCG ADF  
P.O. Box 19261  
Cleveland, OH 44119-0261

